Declaration of Hati Caste of Himachal Pradesh as ST

†124. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament of Himachal Pradesh have requested to declare people of Hati caste settled in Giripar area of district Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled Tribe and also to declare that area as Scheduled Tribe dominated area; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of declaration of people of Hati caste settled in Giripar area of district Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh as Scheduled Tribe is being examined in consultation with the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Registrar General of India in accordance with the modalities approved by Government on 15!6.1999. So far as declaration of Giripar area as Scheduled Tribe dominated area is concerned, it is stated that the tribal population in the Giripar area is very negligible and therefore, this cannot be declared as Scheduled Tribe dominated area.

Central assistance for Welfare of STs in North Sikkim District

125. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a grant of Rs. 1.20 crore as additional Central assistance to promote the welfare of Scheduled Tribes has been released for four new projects in tribal dominated areas of North Sikkim district; and

(b) if so, what has been the quantum of such additional Central assistance released to the. other States?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry released an amount of Rs. 308.38 lakh as additional grant to the State Government of Sikkim under Article 275(1) of the Constitution for implementation of specific schemes during 2000-2001.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.